

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT
11 October 1983

NICARAGUA/U.S. JENNINGS: Well, U.S. covert aide to anti-Nicaraguan groups is in the news tonight. ABC's Peter Collins reports that the CIA operation may be in trouble.

COLLINS: This is a CIA agent working under the cover of the U.S. Embassy in Honduras. The agent is meeting several Nicaraguan exiles. All are members of the smallest guerrilla group the CIA is directing against the Sandinista regime across the border in Nicaragua. The four are among many guerrillas who are disillusioned about the operation. This discussion is about how they will obtain travel documents to return home to Miami, Fla. Their group is being disbanded this week. Two weeks ago they destroyed this Nicaraguan customs post on the border with Honduras. While pinned down inside Nicaragua, they'd radioed for heavier weapons in messages that eventually went all the way to CIA headquarters in Langley, Va. Those requests were denied and when the men returned to Honduras, they were disarmed by the Honduran army and their CIA funds cut off. The episode illustrates the problems the agency is having controlling the various guerrilla factions. Despite a heavy investment of time and money, the operation is not working as fast as the CIA wants. So, the agency is now forcing a broad reorganization on all the guerrillas in the form of an ultimatum. Last week a new leader, *Adolfo *Calero was named at the insistence of the CIA to head the largest of the guerrilla organizations, the Nicaraguan Democratic Force, or FDN. The agency is unhappy with the FDN's slow progress. The former Somoza regime officers who lead it are disliked by the other guerrilla factions in part because they have failed to personally lead their men into combat. The reorganization is intended to reduce personal rivalries among men in all four factions who see themselves as someday inheriting power in Nicaragua. The most important is Eden Pastora, a former Sandinista now based in Costa Rica. Pastora is holding out to be the commander in chief of the CIA's guerrilla army because he considers himself a future president of Nicaragua. At the moment the CIA has cut off his funds. The problems have developed, despite tight controls and a campaign

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